

UTILITY PATENT  
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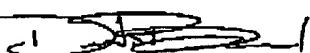
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

App. No. : 09/970,185 Confirmation No. 2268  
Applicant : Thomas LAURSEN et al.  
Filed : October 3, 2001  
Art Unit : 3723  
Examiner : Robert A. Rose  
Docket No. : SFI 658C1  
Customer No. : 29,906

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on 28 JUN 2004 by Signature   
David K. Benson (Reg. No. 42,314)

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT FILED WITH REQUEST**

**FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

*entry of  
app'd 6/28/2004*  
This is a preliminary amendment filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination. This paper is also responsive to the final Office Action mailed on March 26, 2004. Please amend the above-identified application as set forth in the Amendments to the Claims section that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.